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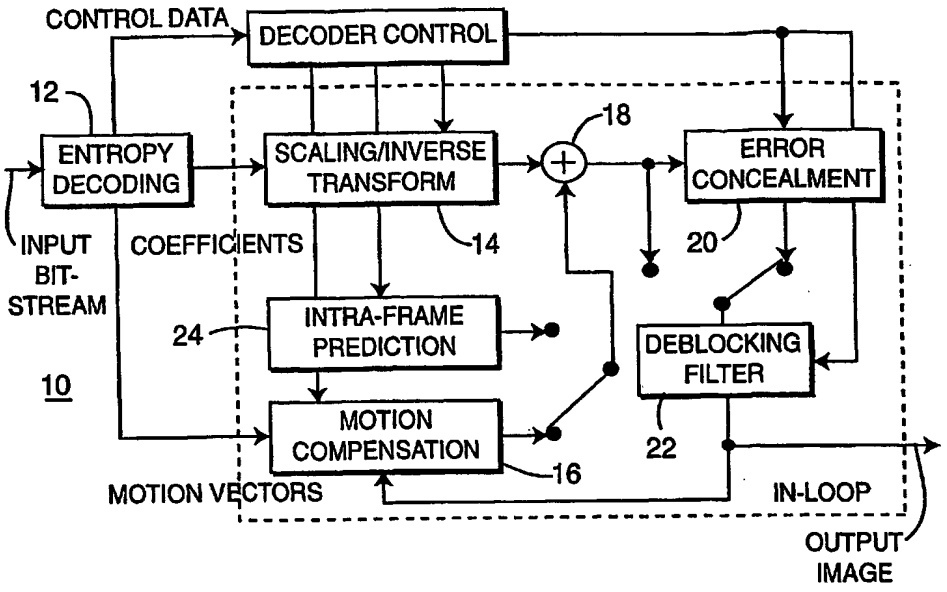
(54) Title: DECODER APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SMOOTHING ARTIFACTS CREATED DURING ERROR CONCEALMENT



(57) Abstract: Errors in coded macroblocks are concealed during decoding by way of an error concealment stage (20) present in a decoder (10). Error-concealed macroblocks produced by the error concealment stage undergo deblocking filtering by a deblocking filter (22) before being output by the decoder to avoid the spread of erroneous pixel values. The error concealment stage (20) controls the deblocking filter (22) in accordance with the error concealment technique to vary the strength of the deblocking filter to force maximum strength on transitions artificially created by the recovery of lost macroblocks.

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